## Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECIN, PORG, GH

SUBJ: ECOWAS DELEGATION VISITS GHANA

1. A THREE-MAN DELEGATION FROM THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY
OF WEST AFRICAN STATES (ECONWAS) LED BY YAW GRUNITSKY, TOGOLESE
MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC PLANNING, VISITED
GHANA APRIL 6, HELD TALKS WITH OFFICIALS IN THE MINISTRY
OF ECONOMIC PLANNING, FOREIL
AFFAIRS, AND TRADE, AND PAID
A "FIVE MINUTE" CALL ON THE HEAD OF STATE AND SMC CHAIRMAN,
GENERAL I.K. ACHEAMPONG. THEIR PURPOSE WAS TO INVITE HIM
TO ATTEND THE HEADS OF STATE SUMMIT MEETING APRIL 21-22.
OTHER ECOWAS DELEGATION MEMBERS
WERE DR. A DIABY QUATTARA,
SECRETARY GENERAL AND MR. E. DOTI MENSAH OF THE ECOWAS
SECRETARIAT.

2. ACCORDING TO ANSAH-ANTIAC,
TING DIRECTOR, MULTILATERAL
AFFAIRS DIVISION, ECONOMIC RELATIONS DEPT., MFA, THE HEAD
OF STATE WOULD BE REPRESENTED AT THE SUMMIT MEETING
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BY MAJOR GENERAL G.Y. BOAKYE, AIR FORCE COMMAND AND MEMBER OF THE SMC.

3. COMMENT: GENERAL ACHEAMPONG HAS LEFT GHANA ONLY ONCE IN HIS SIX YEARS IN POWER AND THEN ONLY BRIEFLY ACROSS THE BORDER TO LOME, FEARING THAT AN ABSENCE FROM GHANA MIGHT PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A COUP D'ETAT SIMILAR TO

THAT WHICH OVERTHREW NKRUMAH IN 1966 WHILE HE WAS EN ROUTE TO THE PRC.

- 4. ANSAH-ANTWI NOTED THAT GHANA SUPPORTED A PROPOSAL TO EXAMINE ECOWAS AND THE OTHER EXISTING REGIONAL BODIES TO SEE IF THERE MIGHT BE UNNECESSARY DUPLICATION OF EFFORT AND WASTE, E.G., IN MAINTAI ING SEVERAL SECRETARIATS.
- 5. ANSAH-ANTIWI CONFIRMED THAT GHANA REMAINS A STRONG SUPPORTER OF ECOWAS, CITING SUCH ADVANTAGES FOR GHANA AS THE POSSIBLE EVENTUAL ADOPTION OF A COMMON CURRENCY FOR MEMBERS, WHICH STEP WOULD, HE ARGUED, REDUCE SMUGGLING FROM GHANA. SMITH

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